

Appln No. 10/789,218
Amdt date October 29, 2007
Reply to Office action of October 5, 2007

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 21-27, 32, 33, 36 and 38-40 were previously pending in the application, of which claims 21-27, 32, 33 and 36 are withdrawn. Applicants have presented new claims 41 and 42. Therefore, claims 21-27, 32, 33, 36 and 38-42 are pending in the application, of which claims 21-27, 32, 33 and 36 are withdrawn.

Claims 38-40 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Speas (U.S. Patent No. 3,035,737). Applicants have amended claim 38 to recite a collapsible and disposable soap or lotion container having an outwardly extending fixed disposable nozzle. In contrast, Speas does not teach or suggest a nozzle as recited in claim 38.

Referring to FIGS. 1 and 2, Speas discloses a rack 3 which includes a hand pump 9 and a platform 12 for supporting a container 20. In order to connect the container 20 to the pump 9, the rack 3 includes a probe 15 having a sharp pointed nose 16, which penetrates a plastic liner 21 of the container 20. According to Speas, connection of the container 20 with the pump 9 is achieved with the probe 15 piercing and penetrating the plastic liner 21 of the container. Once the liner 21 is pierced, the liquid in the liner 21 can be pumped out through the probe 15. Thus, the container 20 of Speas does not have a fixed disposable nozzle that extends outward. Once the liquid in the liner 21 is depleted, the probe 15 is pulled out and only the container is disposed and the probe 15 is used to pierce another filled container.

Because Speas does not teach or suggest a collapsible and disposable soap or lotion container having an outwardly extending fixed disposable nozzle, as recited in claim 38, Applicants believe that claims 38-40 are patentable over Speas.

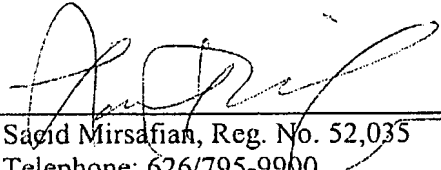
Applicants have presented new claim 41 which recites a valve configured to control flow of liquid soap or lotion from the nozzle to the soap or lotion dispenser, and new claim 42 which recites that the valve is disposed between the nozzle and the at least one line. Applicants believe that claims 41 and 42 are patentable over Speas.

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Applicants believe that claims 38-42 are now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
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